

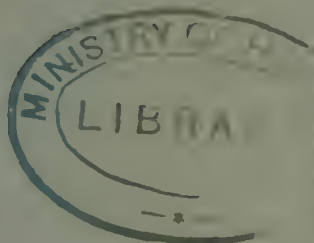
HEALTH

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SMALLBURGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1951

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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SECTION A.

Area of District in acres	70,017
Population (1951 census)	18,432
Structurally separate dwellings (1931 census)—Occupied	6,077
Unoccupied	51
Rateable Value	£68,980
Estimated Penny Rate	£269

Live Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	261	132	129
Illegitimate	19	8	11
	<hr/> 280	<hr/> 140	<hr/> 140

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population	15.5
---------------------------------------------------------------	------

Still Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	7	5	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	25.00
------------------------------------------------	-------

Still Birth Rate	per 1,000 population	0.37		
		Total	Male	Female
Deaths	114	236	114	122

Deaths

Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population	16.27
---------------------------------------------------------------	-------

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ... Nil

Deaths from other Maternal Causes 2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	7	2	5
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 6

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	5	1	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 31

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... —

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... —

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers of the District:

Medical Officer of Health (Acting)—

Dr. J. H. F. NORBURY, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor—

A. L. TAUNTON, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—

A. E. FORD, C.R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities:

E.P.H. Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

Ambulances are supplied through the Norfolk County Council by the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John.

Nursing in the Home:

(a) District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation.

(b) Private Hire in Infectious Diseases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

A village welfare centre for children under 5 years of age is operated from the Church Room at Stalham each month, under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health. The District Nurses from the parishes of Hickling and Stalham attend at this centre.

HOSPITALS

Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Jenny Lind Hospital for Children, Great Yarmouth and North Walsham Cottage Hospitals all take cases from the area. Infectious cases for which isolation is considered necessary are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Dereham and Norwich Isolation Hospital. The Coltishall Nursing Home takes a small number of Maternity cases from the District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

				<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	8
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	48
Acute Polio—				
Para. ...	...	...	...	1
Non-para ...	...	...	...	—
Measles ...	...	...	...	94
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	28
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	3
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid Fevers ...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	6

Meningococcal Infection ...	...	—
Food Poisoning ...	...	2
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ...	...	2
Infective Hepatitis ...	...	12
Weils Disease ...	...	1
Gastro Enteritis ...	...	2
Brucella Abortus Infection (Relapsing)	...	1
Chicken Pox ...	...	5

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951.
Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>London Administrative</i>
Births—	<i>Rates per 1,000 Home Population.</i>			
Live Births ...	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still Births ...	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
Deaths—				
All Causes ...	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza ...	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
Notifications (corrected)				
Typhoid fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever ...	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping Cough ...	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ...	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia ...	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic ...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-paralytic ...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food poisoning ...	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
Deaths—	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</i>			
All causes under 1 year of age ...	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
Notifications (corrected)	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.</i>			
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

<i>Intermediate List No. and cause</i>		<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total of Deaths (Live and Still Births)</i>	<i>Rates per million women aged 15-44</i>
A 115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	70	0.10	0
A 116	Abortion with toxæmia ...	3	0.00	0
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium ...	167	0.24	
A 117	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth ...	91	0.13	
A 118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia ...	37	0.05	4
A 119	Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A 120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	125	0.18	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

Causes of Death

			<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	3	1	2
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	...	...	1	1	—
Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	1	1	—
Measles ...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ...	...	...	2	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	...	3	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ...	...	...	6	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	...	...	5	—	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	...	1	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms			16	9	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	...	...	1	1	—
Diabetes ...	...	...	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	38	19	19
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	14	7	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	5	3	2
Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	53	24	29
Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	...	14	7	7
Influenza ...	...	...	10	4	6
Pneumonia ...	...	...	5	2	3
Bronchitis ...	...	...	7	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	3	2	1
Carried forward ...	...	...	188	92	96

			<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Brought forward	...	...	188	92	96
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	2	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	...	...	4	4	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	2	—	2
Congenital Malformations	...	...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	30	13	17
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	5	3	2
Suicide	...	...	2	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—
All causes	...	...	236	114	122

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases during 1951

			<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Totals</i>
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	
Aged under 1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
„ 1- 5	...	...	—	—	1	—	1
„ 5-15	...	...	1	1	—	—	2
„ 15-25	...	...	4	—	1	2	7
„ 25-35	...	...	1	2	—	—	3
„ 35-45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
„ 45-55	...	...	—	1	—	1	2
„ 55-65	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	6	4	2	3	15

Deaths during 1951

			<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Totals</i>
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	
Aged under 1	—	—	—	—	—
„ 1- 5	—	—	—	—	—
„ 5-15	—	—	—	—	—
„ 15-25	—	—	—	—	—
„ 25-35	—	—	—	—	—
„ 35-45	—	1	—	—	1
„ 45-55	—	—	—	—	—
„ 55-65	—	—	1	—	1
Aged 65 and over	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	—	2	1	—	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and	
Retailers is	153
The number of Producer Retailers is	61
The number of Wholesale Purchasers (for retailing) is	4

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-46.

The total number of 'T.T.' producers is	69
The total number of 'accredited' producers is	12

Inspections during the year were as follows:—

Dairymen's premises	203
Retailers	192
Retailers' vehicles and utensils	161

Generally speaking the producing trade has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner, but I regret to state that complaints have been received concerning the methods of delivery in the rural parts of the district and in the majority of cases the complaints were justified. In my opinion the number of properties served by the retailers is far too large and in consequence the householder is not receiving that service he is led to expect. It is common to find that one retailer has the sole rights of retailing in three or more villages, and the person who makes a complaint is left with a 'take it or nothing' attitude.

Milk Sampling.

This is carried out on our behalf by the Norfolk County Council, and I am pleased to place on record that their assistance has been given us at all times.

The Collection of Milk Supplies in Bulk.

A noticeable improvement has taken place in this matter and it is now a rare thing to see churns at the roadside awaiting collection or delivery.

Animals Slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

One cow was slaughtered under this Order during 1951 and tuberculosis was confirmed.

Meat and Other Foods

Slaughterhouses.

The number of slaughterhouses is as follows:—

Registered	11
Licensed	5

These slaughterhouses are in good condition and suitable for the required purpose. At present very little use is made of them as all slaughtering for butchers' use is carried out outside the area

and only 'casualties' are dealt with. Inspections are carried out at regular intervals to ensure that the premises are kept in good order and in no case has it been found necessary to issue a warning or take other action.

There are no Knacker's Yards in the rural district.

The number of Licensed Slaughtermen is 15.

Butchers' Shops.

There are 21 butchers' shops in the area and one of these is at present not in use. Each shop has a modern refrigerator and this and the shops are kept clean, well-lighted and decorated. No complaints concerning the sale of unsound meat, etc., have been received, and my inspections show that everything is done to deal with the limited supplies that are made available.

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses is now 8, one having been converted to other use during the year. My Inspectors have made a total of 97 inspections of these premises during the year and their reports show the premises to be of good construction, well-kept, and free from vermin.

Sanitary Accommodation of Shops and similar premises.

There has been an improvement in this matter in the parish of Stalham following on the provision of a sewerage scheme for that parish, and this apparently proves that where means of disposal of waste water are available, people will take advantage of it and instal those very necessary sanitary fittings—such as W.C.s and washing basins.

The Clean Food Campaign.

Having to a certain extent improved the shop conditions we are now concentrating on the people who sell foodstuffs from vans and stalls, and we are hopeful that with a little education from us the persons selling from these vans and stalls will co-operate, and endeavour to better their standards.

The new Bye-laws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, have been well received by the various trades and to date no written warning has been found to be necessary.

Condemned Foodstuffs.

Below I give a statement showing the total of all foodstuffs condemned and destroyed during the year.

Condemned Carcase Meat:

Beef (Home-killed) ...	...	145 lbs.
Beef (Imported) ...	...	21 lbs.
Mutton ...	...	89 lbs.

Tinned Foods:

	<i>No. of Tins</i>		<i>No. of Tins</i>
Apples ...	39	Orange segments ...	170
Asparagus soup ...	3	Oxtail soup ...	5
Baked beans ...	16	Paws paws ...	2
Beef steak puddings ...	2	Peas ...	54
Beef loaf ...	7	Pea soup ...	4
Beef soup ...	3	Pilchards ...	8
Blackberries ...	2	Pineapple ...	16
Brawn ...	5	Plums ...	60
Carrots ...	2	Pork luncheon meat ...	164
Chef soup ...	4	Pork and veal loaf ...	3
Christmas puddings ...	2	Rhubarb ...	4
Crab ...	2	Salmon ...	10
Crayfish ...	6	Sardines ...	8
French cherries ...	4	Sausages ...	1
Fruit Salad ...	30	Scotch broth ...	4
Gooseberries ...	1	Shrimps ...	1
Grapes ...	24	Spinach ...	3
Grapefruit puree ...	5	Stewed steak ...	2
Greengages ...	3	Strawberries ...	2
Guavas ...	6	Tomatoes ...	32
Ham loaf ...	4	Tomato soup ...	19
Herrings ...	1	Tongue ...	1
Jam ...	13	Veal loaf ...	5
Marmalade ...	6	Veal and ham loaf ...	3
Milk (sweetened) ...	9	Vegetable soup ...	7
Milk (unsweetened) ...	206	Whole chickens ...	6
Mincemeat ...	6		

Processed cheese 95 packets.

Jelex fluid 20 lbs.

Cooked ham 411 lbs.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Notifications:

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nil	Nil	One	One	2

Outbreaks due to Identified Agents:

Nil Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause:

Nil Nil

Single Cases:

One One 2

(*Salmonella enteritidis*) (var. jena)
(present in faeces specimen).

GENERAL

Water Supplies:

- (i) No carting of supplies to any part of the district has been found to be necessary during the past year, and, taking a general view, the situation as regards quantity has been satisfactory. As however a large number of our parishes draw their supplies from shallow wells I feel it to be necessary to again draw the attention of the Council to the unsatisfactory source of these supplies, and suggest they should be replaced as early as possible with piped supplies of proved quality.

I congratulate the Council on the progress made in the sinking of the new large bore at Ludham, and from the reports that have been received from your engineers it appears this bore will give an ample supply of good quality water. Apparently the only difficulty now remaining is that of obtaining a suitable pump, and it seems fairly certain that this will be delivered early in the new year.

During the past year certain properties in the Sutton, Catfield and Ludham areas have obtained their supplies from the Stalham bore and this has given a great deal of anxiety to all, as the pump and pumping machinery serving this bore is very badly in need of overhaul, and this overhaul cannot be carried out whilst the machinery is working.

- (a) Quality: The mains supplies have been good but the samples taken from shallow wells indicate that these supplies are poor.
 - (b) Quantity: There has been no shortage of supplies.
- (ii) The Parishes of Horning and Hoveton obtain these supplies through piped mains from the City of Norwich Waterworks, and the reports received from the Water Engineer show these supplies to be of good quality and fit in all respects for a public supply.

The Parish of Stalham obtains its supply from a borehole, 400 feet in depth, the supplies being distributed throughout the parish by asbestos mains. Routine samples submitted to the Public Analyst show this to be a supply of excellent quality. The quantity withdrawn from this bore during the year was 8,082,900 gallons, the daily average consumption figure being 22,144 gallons.

- (iii) No reports have been received from any source of contamination by lead.
- (iv) Water sampling. 87 samples of well water were taken during the past year, 42 of these being forwarded to the Public Analyst and 45 to the Public Health Laboratory Service, and the reports on these samples were as follows:

	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>
Public Analyst	42	23	19
Public Health Laboratory	45	10	35

I am of the opinion these figures speak for themselves and can only advise you to proceed with schemes for piped supplies in all of your parishes as quickly as the situation will allow.

- (v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public service mains:

Parish of Horning—

Estimated number of houses	...	...	464
Number of houses having a direct supply into the house	...	...	101
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	475
Number of houses supplied by means of stand-pipes	...	...	22
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	67

In addition the following are supplied from the mains:

(a) Business premises (Metered)	...	...	8
(b) Farm lands (Metered)	...	...	6
(c) School (Metered)	...	...	1

Parish of Hoveton—

Estimated number of houses	...	...	457
Number of houses having a direct supply into the house	...	...	158
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	471
Number of houses supplied by means of stand pipes	...	...	98
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	302

In addition the following are supplied from the mains:

(a) Business premises (Metered) ...	...	14
(b) Shops and Offices (Metered) ...	...	3
(c) Farm lands (Metered) ...	...	8
(d) School (Metered) ...	...	1

Concerning the Parishes of Horning and Hoveton the Engineer and Manager of the City of Norwich Waterworks gives the following information which may be of interest.

	<i>Horning</i>	<i>Hoveton</i>
Number of houses supplied where		
(i) Baths are fixed	69	129
(ii) W.C.s are fixed	67	123
(iii) More than one W.C.	21	19
(iv) No W.C. is fixed	29	35

Parish of Stalham—

Estimated number of houses ...	...	418
Number of houses having a direct supply into the house ...	...	355
Estimated number of persons supplied ...	...	884
Number of houses supplied by means of stand-pipes ...	...	17
Estimated number of persons supplied ...	...	54

The satisfactory increase in the number of houses connected to the mains in this parish is due entirely to the sewerage scheme recently brought into full operation, as many of the owners and occupiers were waiting to connect up as soon as they were assured that the waste water could be satisfactorily disposed of.

Concerning the piped supplies at Horning and Hoveton, whilst the figures of those taking a supply show a slight improvement, the position is not too satisfactory and I would like to suggest that the council consult with the parish councils as to the best means of advising owners and occupiers of the advantages of mains supplies.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	422
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	571
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations ...	142
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	183
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	21
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	42

Note.—Concerning paragraph (4) above, the defects in many of these dwellings were of a minor nature, and generally speaking the owners were willing to do whatever was possible.

The rental question is still something of a nightmare to us as the time is near when many of the older type of dwellings require an expenditure of hundreds of pounds to render them fit in all respects, and with the low rental value prevailing in this area the position is becoming somewhat difficult.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices.

The number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers was	35
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Notices that questions of demolition would be considered	10
Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure ...	10
Houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11 ...	1
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force ...	nil
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	nil

Houses made fit—

(i) as the result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 to 12	...	...	...	...	...	11

(b) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Demolition Orders quashed under Section 2	...	...	...	...	...	1

The following housing information is given by the Council's Housing Estates Manager.

Requisitioning.

Number of properties under requisition at 31/12/51	...	...	...	...	...	13
Number of properties occupied at 31/12/51	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of properties requisitioned during 1951	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of properties released during 1951	...	...	...	...	...	4

Temporary Housing.

Number of occupied properties on the Ludham Air-field Estate at 31/12/51	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of properties on the Petersfield Estate at 31/12/51	...	...	...	...	...	3

Permanent Housing.

The Council owns a total of 1,017 dwellings as under:—

1919 Assisted Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	48
1923 Acts	...	...	...	...	...	6
1924 Acts	...	...	...	...	...	412
1931 (Rural Authorities) Act	...	...	...	...	...	28
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	58
1936 Act (Overcrowding)	...	...	...	...	...	34
1938 Act (Overcrowding and Slum Clearance)	...	...	...	...	...	3
(Accommodation of members of aggregate population)	...	...	...	...	...	19
Not subsidised	...	...	...	...	...	77
1946 Act	...	...	...	...	...	332

Of the above, the following 52 traditional houses were completed and occupied during the year:—

Catfield	...	...	6	Neatishead	...	...	2
Horning	...	...	10	Potter Heigham	...	...	8
Knapton	...	...	4	Stalham	...	...	8
Ludham	...	...	8	Worstead	...	...	6

Scavenging.

The Local Authority have scavenging schemes in force in the Parishes of Horning, Hoveton, Ludham and Stalham, and in addition a partial scheme is in operation in the Parish of Bacton. Mechanical vehicles are employed for this work, and the refuse and other material is disposed of by dumping. A scheme for the Parish of Potter Heigham has been prepared and will come into force early in 1952. Requests for scavenging schemes are being received from other parishes and the Local Authority is giving these consideration, but, owing to the difficulties we have experienced in disposing of the collected refuse, a delay in incurring fresh commitments is inevitable.

Additional refuse bins have been placed at suitable spots in certain parishes and a slight improvement in the position has taken place, but in these days of tins, jars and bottles, nothing short of a house-to-house collection scheme will abate the nuisances.

The Local Authority own two cesspool emptying machines, and on paper these machines should be capable of carrying out the cesspool emptying service and also help with the nightsoil collection schemes, but unfortunately these machines are prone to many troubles and very rarely are both machines in full service.

During the year the following work has been carried out:—

Cesspools emptied.

Council properties		Private properties	
<i>No. of cesspools emptied</i>	<i>No. of loads removed</i>	<i>No. of cesspools emptied</i>	<i>No. of loads removed</i>
102	395	357	532

Disposal of the material removed from these cesspools has been rather a problem, especially during the period when all the farm lands are cropped. When one remembers that a load of cesspool material is approximately 650 gallons, the disposal of 600,000 gallons of this material during a year is inclined to give one a headache.

56 village dumps have been cleared during the past year.

Nuisances, 1951.

A total of 46 nuisances were reported during the year and were as follows:—

Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	1
Dampness in dwellings	...	...	3
Dangerous tiled roof	...	...	1
Defective tiled roofs	...	...	5
„ thatched roofs	...	...	3
„ house drainage	...	...	11
„ cesspools	...	...	1
„ drainage from a holiday camp	...	...	1
„ pail closets	...	...	4
„ well cover	...	...	1
Disposal of night-soil	...	...	1
Drainage entering roadside pond	...	...	1
Infested premises requiring cleansing	...	...	1
Land used for dumping of refuse	...	...	1
Night-soil placed in a river	...	...	3
Open ditches in foul condition	...	...	3
Smoke from factory premises	...	...	1
Structure of dwellings	...	...	2
Tent dwelling causing a nuisance	...	...	1
Water cistern overflow	...	...	1
Total	...	...	46

In all of the above-named cases the nuisance was investigated and suitable action taken to abate.

The nuisance caused by the 'smoke from factory premises' had been reported as unabated in the Annual Report for 1950, owing to the difficulty in securing the necessary replacements. These materials have now been obtained and the nuisance abated.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year the rat-catcher visited each of the Parishes in the district on many occasions, and in addition the dumping places used by the Local Authority were dealt with each quarter. However it seems to be correct that the rat population is on the increase, and I would advise that a 'Rat Week' should be organised in an endeavour to secure uniform action throughout the district.

We received 57 complaints of minor infestation and these were properly dealt with under my supervision.

The following particulars show the volume of work carried out during the past 12 months:—

Number of properties inspected for infestation	...	1,134
Number of properties found to be infested	...	672
Total number of pre-baits laid	... ..	17,110
Total number of poison baits laid	... ..	5,709
Dead rats found and destroyed	... ..	2,227
Dead mice found and destroyed	... ..	677
Payments made to the Local Authority for the services of the ratcatcher at business properties	...	£21 2 6

The poisons used during the year were White Arsenic, Zinc Phosphide and Warfarin, the pre-baiting material being Sausage Rusk.

In the opinion of the rat-catcher zinc phosphide gives the best results.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Stalham Sewerage Scheme is now in full operation, and, apart from minor teething troubles, appears to be giving reasonable satisfaction. The action of the Local Authority in making grants towards the cost of conversion from pail to water closets has been well received and very few connections remain to be made to the sewers.

Road re-instatement has been rather a problem, but this has now been grappled with to the satisfaction of all concerned.

A sewerage scheme for the Parish of Hoveton has now been prepared, and this scheme will be coupled with a similar scheme for the adjoining Parish of Wroxham—forming part of the St. Faiths and Aylsham Rural District, the actual disposal works being located in the Parish of Wroxham. It is to be regretted that certain low-lying portions of the Hoveton parish cannot be sewered under this scheme, but obviously costs must be considered and I agree it is not a practical engineering feat to sewer these areas.

May I suggest that a sewerage scheme be considered for the Parish of Horning as it is obvious that with the piped mains water supplies now available in that parish, the drainage position must be acute.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1949.

There are 104 factories in the rural district and these are connected with the following trades or businesses.

Agricultural engineering	2	Joinery	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
Boatbuilding	...	...	...	...	1
Brewery	...	...	...	...	2
Building	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers (slaughterhouses)	12	Plumbing and well sinking	...	...	3
Cycle brazing	...	Sailmaking	...	...	1
Electricity works dept.	...	Stonemason	...	...	1
Electrical engineering	...	Threshing engine	...	...	...
Flour milling	...	machinery	...	...	1
Fruit grading	...	Timber merchants and	...	...	...
Fruit preserving	...	sawmills	...	...	2
Garages	...	Toy-making	...	...	1
General engineering	...	Wicker fencing makers	...	...	1
Grain-drying, cleaning and storage	...	...	...	...	1

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	M/c. line No.	Number on Register	Number of			M/c line No.
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities†	1	69	104	2	Nil.	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	24	51	3	Nil.	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	11	12	Nil.	Nil.	3
Total	...	104	167	5	Nil.	

† To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

‡ i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found—

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted	M/c. line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	5	5	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	1	1	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3) ...	6	Nil.	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	Nil.	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	3	3	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive ...	10	1	1	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	Nil.	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) ...	12	2	2	—	—	—	12
Total ...	60	13	13	—	—	—	60

Licences granted to store Petroleum Spirit.

A total of 72 licences to store 51,550 gallons of petroleum spirit were granted during the year, the fees received for these licences amounted to £38 11s. 6d.

The Control of Camping and of Moveable Dwellings.

There is still a need for additional camping sites in the district, especially adjacent to the 'Broads' and coastal areas and I should like to suggest to the Local Authority that should they propose to erect a public convenience in a certain parish it might be possible to also allocate additional adjoining land for camping purposes.

If this were done it would be practicable to employ a full-time attendant to attend to the lavatories and camping site and the schemes should be self-supporting.

J. H. F. NORBURY,

M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health (Acting).

A. L. TAUNTON,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Building Surveyor.*

To the Chairman and Members of the
Smallburgh Rural District Council.
July, 1952.

